REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action issued September 21, 2005, claims 18 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite. Claims 18 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over an article by Watson (Distributed Simulation Testing for Weapons System Performance of the F/A-18 and AIM-120 AMRAAM) ("Watson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,605,307 to Batchman et al. ("Batchman"). Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watson in view of Batchman and further in view of Phillips.

Claims 18 and 20-30 are now pending in this application. Claim 18 has been amended to more particularly specify the subject matter that the applicant considers to be the invention. New claims 24-30 have been added. These claims find support throughout the specification of the present application. No new matter has been added.

The applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, according to claims 18 and 20-21, is not unpatentable over Watson in view of Batchman. Watson teaches a general method for simulating missile tests, specifically the AMRAAM Hardware-In-The-Loop (HWIL) Facility. As disclosed by Watson, the HWIL provides the capability to simulate real-time missile flight scenarios from launch to target intercept and includes actual AMRAAM missile hardware. The AMRAAM missile hardware consists of the RF sensor system (target seeker), guidance section, and the telemetry section. The HWIL also includes a computer-controlled Radio Frequency (RF) sources utilized to simulate maneuvering targets and electronic countermeasures. For example, in Fig. 5, Watson discloses blocks that generate a number of signals. However, as shown in Fig. 5, these signals are applied to the actual missile hardware mounted in a flight motion simulator.

Thus, Watson discloses using a simulated environment for testing actual missile hardware.

By contrast, the present invention requires using a simulated missile for testing an aircraft weapon system. For example, according to claim 18, commands are generated for a simulated target seeker, simulating behavior of the missile in a computer model, and generating in the weapon system a trouble signal from a deviation between the target seeker command position and the actual value signal. Although, Watson discloses generating numerous signals, Watson does not disclose generating any signals in a computer model of a simulated missile, or applying any signal to a computer model of a simulated missile.

Batchman discloses a missile that is remotely controlled by a person operating with a base controller that displays an image of an aim-point target. Batchman does not disclose or suggest generating a target seeker command position for a simulated target seeker, simulating behavior of the missile in a computer model to generate an actual value signal adapted to the weapon system, using the trouble signal as a control signal for the simulated target seeker, etc.

Thus, the combination of Watson and Batchman still does not disclose these required elements of the present invention, for example, according to claim 18. Therefore, the present invention, according to claim 18, and according to claims 20-21, which depend therefrom, is not obvious over Watson in view of Batchman.

The applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, according to claim 22, is not unpatentable over Watson in view of Batchman and further in view of Phillips. Phillips teaches a Phillips teaches a method of modeling a feedback control system

comprising time discrete signals, but makes no mention of techniques used in the positioning of target seekers. Phillips does not disclose or suggest generating a target seeker command position for a simulated target seeker, simulating behavior of the missile in a computer model to generate an actual value signal adapted to the weapon system, using the trouble signal as a control signal for the simulated target seeker, etc.

Thus, the combination of Watson, Batchman, and Phillips still does not disclose these required elements of the present invention. Therefore, the present invention, according to claim 18, and according to claim 22, which depends therefrom, is not obvious over Watson in view of Batchman and further in view of Phillips.

Likewise, new claims 23-30 are not anticipated by, or obvious in view of the cited references, or any combination thereof because the cited references do not disclose or suggest the claimed elements of the present invention.

Each of the claims now pending in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.
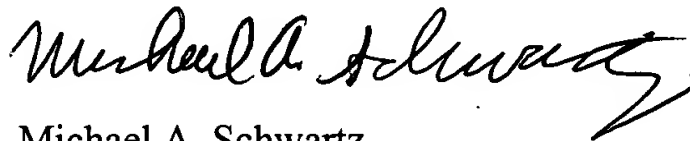
Additional Fees:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (25880.0039).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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